

Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #22
August 28, 2006

WORLDWIDE UPDATE.

- The cumulative number of human cases of H5N1 influenza was updated to 241 cases and 141 deaths (58.5%). This included an addition of two cases and one death from Indonesia. The source of the infection for one of the ill Indonesians is under investigation. The other was from an area in which chickens had been dying. Other individuals from that area died in late July but no samples were taken from them to confirm the cause of their illness. The World Health Organization continues to report that there is no increased evidence of human-to-human transmission and no evidence that the virus spreads more easily from birds to humans.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- Next Pandemic Flu Advisory Group meeting will be held on September 18 at the Crowne Plaza West on Broad Street just east of I-64 at Glenside.
- VDH will participate in PanFlu Quad-State (MD, WV, PA, VA) PanFlu Briefings on September 21.
- VDH will brief PanFlu Issues to the upcoming Secure Commonwealth Committee Meeting (9/07).
- This week, a central office epidemiologist presented information on pandemic influenza and state planning efforts at a professional development seminar for nurses at Virginia Commonwealth University, at a statewide conference of the Virginia Department of Correctional Education, and at a meeting convened by the Department of Social Services that focused on Newcomer Services.
- Together with the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) Director, VDH State Emergency Planning Coordinator addressed PanFlu issues at a recent Regional Emergency Management Technical Advisory Committee Meeting. Discussion focused on PanFlu Fatality Management.
- 12 local and regional PanFlu Summits have been conducted. Upcoming Summit is scheduled in the Near SW Region on October 31, postponed from August 22.
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Reports.

- **Eastern**

- Eastern Regional Team facilitated a day long Pandemic Influenza Summit for private sector/business, schools and colleges, local government, public safety, first responders, volunteer service groups, mental health, social services, funeral directors, healthcare, and long-term care/assisted living. One hundred and forty persons attended the summit.
- Regional PIO participated in beta testing of the new CDC Pandemic Influenza Risk Communication Training in Atlanta. PIO was one of thirty attendees invited to evaluate the program which will be taught nationwide by CDC over the next few months Regional Medical Consultant met with representative from Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit-2 to discuss military pandemic influenza planning and collaboration
- Regional Medical Consultant, Regional Planner, and Regional Surveillance Coordinator participated in the VDH pandemic influenza table top exercise
- Regional Planner initiated contact with Center for State Courts about the role of the courts in pandemic influenza
- Regional Planner facilitated pandemic influenza meeting of Hampton and Peninsula Health Departments with Hampton Newport News CSB
- Regional Planner and Statewide Planning Coordinator attended the Regional Emergency Managers Tactical Advisory Board meeting to discuss pandemic influenza
- Regional Planner is surveying districts on planning for pandemic influenza deaths

- **Southwest**

- Regional Emergency Planner made a presentation to 73 attendees at the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads District 7 meeting in Bluefield. This presentation centered on the National, State, Regional, and local planning efforts for PanFlu Preparation. 16 Rescue Squads from District 7 were represented at this meeting.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Report

- **Central Virginia**

- Director has made arrangements to do a PanFlu planning in-service for the staff of Westminster Canterbury, a large retirement/LTCF facility in Lynchburg. This will be the model that can be “taken on the road” to other, similar facilities in the area. A separate presentation for the residents of the facility will be presented later.
- District Epi Response Team (ERT) is gearing up for flu season and is in the process of developing message maps for the staff to handle inquiries from the public on seasonal flu/pandemic flu.
- Centra Health’s Chief Medical Officer has resigned, disconnecting a vital link between the HD and the medical staff. Director is working to rebuild this link by working directly with CME and infectious diseases staff rather than through the CMO.
- Director and planner have secured space at EC Glass High School for the vaccine dispensing site drill in October.

- **Chesapeake**
 - Planner and City emergency management personnel are developing a City PanFlu Tabletop Exercise (TTX) with EOC involvement on September 21, 2006, to precede exercise Fowl Play.
 - Emergency Planner is scheduled to give a PanFlu presentation next month at the Chesapeake Kiwanis Club.
 - Eight members of CHD staff participated in E. Region PanFlu Organization Survival Workshop. For Breakout Groups, Director served as SME, Emergency Planner as facilitator, MRC coordinator and PanFlu assistant helped with registration, etc.
 - PanFlu awareness and educational brochures being printed and home care kits developed and ordered.
 - 73 staff completed annual fit testing this month for N100 respirators.
- **Chickahominy**
 - Preparing PanFlu packets to be sent to clinicians.
 - Signed MOU with Asian Chamber of Commerce to translate Family and Personal Preparedness Manual and PanFlu Summit video into Korean, Vietnamese and Cambodian and to provide outreach assistance to those communities.
 - Facilitated telecon between Goochland School District and Dupont to review Dupont proposal to assist the school district in pilot hand sanitation / washing program.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
 - Planner distributed Pandemic Influenza video, literature, and district contact information to a county law enforcement agency within the District.
 - Planner facilitated efforts for local county pandemic influenza meetings in Dickenson and Russell counties.
 - Epidemiologist presented pandemic influenza information to health staff of state correctional facility (including 10 nurses and one physician).
- **Eastern Shore**
 - Conducted PanFlu Summit with 75 people from different agencies in attendance.
 - Conducted mini-Summit on Tangier on with 15 attendees from different agencies in attendance.
 - Health Educator attended Health Fair in Indiantown Park.
 - Presentation on pandemic influenza planning will be given to Lockheed Martin leaders and the Accomack County Rotary Club.
 - Three (3) CERT classes completed this summer by emergency planner that included a pandemic influenza module.
- **Hampton**
 - Hampton Roads Military Collation PanFlu Working Group met to discuss fatality management from PanFlu event.
 - Hampton School Teachers training workshop - PanFlu presentation.
 - Hampton Newport News Community Services Board - PanFlu preps and setting up training for CSB staff.
- **Henrico**
 - Planner met with Henrico Schools Superintendent to plan for the use of two school buildings during the pandemic flu mass vaccination exercise in November.
 - Planner met with the architects that are under contract to do an assessment of a potential quarantine center.
 - Planner participated in a regional pandemic flu meeting and table top exercise sponsored by the Office of Newcomer Services (ONS).
 - Epidemiologist sent out the weekly avian flu update to local partners

- Department launched an online “Blackboard” course site to serve as a framework for virtual communication among the county’s pandemic flu advisory group members.
- Director participated in a regional meeting with HCA Hospitals to discuss hospital-based planning for pandemic flu.
- **Lord Fairfax**
 - The District placed full page informative messages were placed in local newspapers on what pandemic influenza is and actions individuals, families, businesses, community organizations and faith-based groups can do to diminish the risk/impact of pandemic influenza. A Spanish-language version was placed in a Spanish-language weekly publication.
 - The Health Director filmed 2 four-minute brief interview spots with a local cable TV provider. These spots will be featured hourly on September 13 as an inset to the Cable Access Channel 3, along with the weather, community billboard, etc. items.
 - The District Planner coordinated presentations to the Shenandoah County Ministers Association, Rotary Club and the Northern Shenandoah Valley Safety Net to discuss PanFlu in September.
 - The Planner assisted Frederick County Fire/Rescue staff in determining planning needs for responder personal protective equipment.
- **Loudoun**
 - August 10th PanFlu Public Summit webcast available at:
http://loudoun.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=14
 - Provided brown-bag lunch PanFlu talk to about 25 Department of Family Services staff members to gather input for community planning purposes

Loudoun Health District Sponsored Exercise (“Code Flu 06”):

 - Conducted a site survey of Harper Park Middle School (Staging Site) with Loudoun County Public Schools, Sheriff’s Office, and Office of Emergency Management representatives in conjunction with selected Health Department staff.
 - Prepared and submitted facility use forms for the Medical POD (Heritage High School), Staging Site (Harper Park Middle School), and spill over parking (John Tolbert Elementary School).
 - Initiated review of Loudoun POD Plan to prepare the exercise POD Plan.
 - Coordinated the Prince William Health District CodeFlu 06 participant list (a total of 60 to date) with the Prince William Health District CodeFlu 06 POC.
 - Edited and distributed the monthly Planning Team Meeting minutes for August 14th.
- **Norfolk**
 - District and the City of Norfolk sponsored a Preparedness Outreach event at the MacArthur Mall on during which 20 community organizations with emergency functions, including the American Red Cross and the Amateur Radio Emergency group had tables and educational materials. Over five hundred pandemic influenza family educational material packets were distributed by NDPH staff who answered questions and discussed the relation of pandemic influenza planning to all-hazards planning.
 - Director and Environmental Health Manager attended the Norfolk International Airport disaster preparedness discussions. The NIA operations manager will support a tabletop during October in synch with the NDPH and VDH Pandemic Influenza Exercise.

- District was a participating sponsor of the Eastern Region Organizational Survival Workshop held at the Norfolk Airport Hilton. A diverse group of business, military and community organizations attended.
- Packets with materials on family and organizational pandemic influenza preparedness were distributed to all Norfolk 911 tele-communicators.
- Director attended the Eastern Virginia Medical Center Emergency Management Committee meeting. The status of organizational pandemic influenza planning was discussed, and the committee will work on specific human resource, notification, communication, and policy items to bring forward through EVMS.
- District participated in the City of Norfolk Project Homeless Connect at the Scope Exhibition Hall on August 24, 2006, during which over 400 persons were offered entry to services through multiple city departments and community agencies. NDPH provided coordination, logistics and communication support of the medical/health component, serving over 200 persons.
- **Pittsylvania-Danville**
 - District Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee met for the fourth time. Twenty four members were present. Since September is Emergency Preparedness Month, the committee decided to propose a proclamation to the city and county governments to make September 10-16, Pandemic Flu Awareness Week. Preparations for the week are underway
- **Virginia Beach**
 - Healthcare Summit had a little over 100 attend. The feedback has been positive; we are looking at doing a follow up in January/February timeframe.
 - Health Director and Regional Medical Consultant did a Grand Rounds at Sentara Bayside Hospital.
 - Still meeting on a monthly basis with city personnel to work on Pandemic issues.
 - Currently, the Health Educator is setting up multiple dates throughout the community to hold community forums to educate the community.
 - Planning to hold training for Home Health Providers and Private Schools.
 - Planner interviewed by Inside Business to provide feedback on Healthcare Summit.
- **Western Tidewater**
 - Epidemiologist and Planner attended and facilitated a breakout session for the Eastern Region Organizational Survival Workshop for Pandemic Flu, August 22, 2006 at the Hilton Norfolk Airport Hotel. The workshop was well attended by approximately 140 private sector/business, schools & colleges/universities, local government, public safety, first responders, volunteer service groups, mental health, social services, healthcare, and long-term/assisted living facilities.
 - Planner and Epidemiologist have been making plans to install hygiene stations in all 35 schools in Suffolk, Isle of Wight County, Southampton County, and Franklin when the hygiene stations arrive.
 - Planner continues to meet with Safety Officer of Southampton Memorial Hospital to assist in planning for scheduled exercise/drill on September 30.
 - Planner consulted with new Health Educator of Maryview Nursing Center to assist in writing a COOP, PanFlu and All-Hazards Plan.
 - Planner continues to prepare for October exercise/drill.
 - Planner completed budget for PanFlu Phase II, CRI, and EP&R.
 - Epidemiologist completed budget for EP&R.
 - Health Director, Epidemiologist and Planner meet weekly for PanFlu updates.
 - Planner and Nurse Manager interviewed for MRC Coordinator.

- Planner and Epidemiologist participated in the Operation Fowl Play TTX.
- Planner actively working with Red Cross and nursing staff to make certain shelters and kits are ready for immediate use.
- Planner forwarded updated electronic copies for WTHD PanFlu Plan to Emergency Managers in four jurisdictions.